

02-277

From: seahawk107@comcast.net
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Jun 4, 2003 7:51 PM
Subject: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

Senator John McCain
U.S. Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain,

I urge you to tell the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) not to weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of America's newspapers and radio and TV stations

As you know, the FCC is reviewing rules currently for media ownership and is likely to allow big corporations to dominate ownership of media in a particular city or town. If that happens, one company may be allowed to own the local newspaper, several TV and radio stations and the cable TV system in the same community. There would be fewer owners of networks, stations and newspapers nationwide.

Media ownership would be concentrated among fewer companies and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints would be compromised. Plus, it likely would result in higher costs for businesses that advertise in local media, and those costs likely would be passed onto consumers.

The FCC is expected to vote on whether to change the rules on June 2. The public comments submitted to the FCC by individuals have been opposed to media consolidation overwhelmingly. Americans understand that the public interest is not being served by deregulation that reduces competition.

Please tell the FCC to reinstate its traditional media ownership rules for the sake of competition and democracy.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Harry T. Deininger
46 Kingston Way
Southampton, New Jersey 08088

cc.

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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JUN 16 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Representative Jim Saxton
Senator Ernest Hollings
Senator Jon Corzine
Senator Frank Lautenberg
FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps
FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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JUN 16 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: Jackson627@aol.com
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Wed, Jun 4, 2003 7:52 PM
Subject: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

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Office of the Secretary

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Sincerely,

Lisa Gillan
7 Gramercy Park West
New York, New York 10003

cc:

Representative Carolyn Maloney
Senator Ernest Hollings
Senator Hillary Clinton
Senator Charles Schumer
FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps
FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
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Sincerely,

Geert Aerts, P.E.
124 Harmon Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78209

cc:

RECEIVED

SUNSHINE PERIOD

JUN 16 2003

From: Brenda Senturia
To: Mike Powell
Date: 3/3/03 7 48PM
Subject: March Hearings

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I am extremely distressed to learn that the FCC is contemplating further consolidation and deregulation of the media. I think it would be very damaging to consumers to have large media companies control multiple sources of media information. I listen frequently to alternative radio and enjoy the local flavor to some of the local stations. Moreover, I often turn to them for a different take on the news than the major media networks. I think the contemplated changes would result in restricting the news to just a few sources - particularly if one company owns both TV and/or newspapers and/or radio stations in a community. A variety of viewpoints is vital to our democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brenda Senturia
Seattle, Washington

--- Brenda Senturia
--- Bbsenturia@earthlink.net
--- EarthLink The #1 provider of the Real Internet

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: John at SPS
To: Mike Powell
Date: 3/3/03 9 34PM
Subject: Richmond hearing has a responsibility to a free democracy

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JUN 16 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Michael Powell,

As you debate the issue of further media deregulation, I beg you to use common sense and to strongly consider the impact that your decisions will have with regard to the American democracy

Since the current Bush administration took control of the White House, we have already seen multiple instances in which the executive branch has abused its influence to curb the system of government checks and balances that define the American system. In fact, within the past thirty minutes as I write this, I read an article regarding the GAO lawsuit with regard to energy commission disclosure

Governmental abuses are real, Mr. Powell. And they are nothing new to the current administration. But it is certainly true that the current administration has leveraged public events to create a degree of autonomy and secrecy that has taken the potential for abuse to a new level.

History has proven that the American media has served as an extremely effective watchdog against such abuse. This cannot be argued.

And within the last decade, we have seen an undeniable trend in which mainstream media has become less likely to research the details of breaking stories and has instead preferred to regurgitate the stories as dictated through press releases and public relations efforts. At best, such stories are written with a biased perspective. At worst, they may include an agenda that is counter to the population served by the media.

The responsibility to curb this trend - and to preserve the American media system as an asset to free speech and as a tool for effective public governance - falls squarely upon your shoulders.

The impact of allowing a handful of wealthy media barons to control the information flow within our great country almost certainly contributes to a scenario of Orwellian socialistic thought control.

Your decision, Mr. Powell, is not merely whether or not to allow further deregulation of an industry. Your decision is whether or not to allow further erosion to American democracy.

I hope you will have the courage to do the right thing.

John
johnc@spswebpage.com
<http://spswebpage.com>
Mr. Poindexter, please stop reading my email

From: David Meinert
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB, Michael Copps, Commissioner Adeistein
Date: 3/4/03 12 28PM
Subject: Seattle City Council Resolution On Media Consolidation

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

JUN 16 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioners,

Attached is a Resolution passed unanimously yesterday by the Seattle City Council. Please read it and pay attention to the voices of the people in the US. Many, many people are interested in the effects the changes you are proposing will make on their news, information and music. Please do more to let the citizens of the US know what you are doing, and then listen to what those people want from their government.

David Meinert

na
FCC Resolution
2-26-02
V # 2

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION in support of diversity in media ownership.

WHEREAS, freedom of the press and public access to diverse media are prerequisites for a functioning democracy; and

WHEREAS, the broadcast airwaves are owned commonly by the public, and should be managed to serve the public interest; and

WHEREAS, adherence to the highest journalistic principles is a public trust; and

WHEREAS, the public interest is best served by the availability of a broadly diverse range of viewpoints, and

WHEREAS, media diversity is seriously threatened by further consolidation of media ownership in an already highly concentrated market; and

WHEREAS, deregulation of radio ownership rules under the 1996 Telecommunications Act caused unprecedented consolidation, dramatically decreasing competition; and

WHEREAS, radio industry consolidation has also damaged local accountability and content diversity, in part by shifting control and resources away from local programmers and towards central managers, which had led to reductions in local news and public affairs programming, and reduced access to the airwaves for local musicians, community groups and public officials; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission is currently considering an unprecedented rollback of media ownership regulations which protect competition, content diversity and local accountability in our media; and

WHEREAS, the elimination or weakening of these regulations would worsen the effects of radio industry consolidation to date, as ownership deregulation will reduce competition, local accountability, diversity of content and voices, and the amount and quality of news coverage in broadcast and print media across the country, while providing windfall profits for a small handful of corporate media owners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

We recognize that as citizens in a democracy, we require public access to a diverse range of media voices and messages, in order to participate fully in our community's shared social, cultural and political life

na
FCC Resolution
2-26-02
V # 2

We urge the Federal Communications Commission to resist attempts to repeal the cross-ownership ban and further urge the Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to protect content diversity and press freedom by retaining and strengthening existing media ownership regulations, including regulations that limit the number of stations one owner may hold

We further call upon the Congress to exercise its oversight in the area of federal communications policy through public hearings on media ownership issues; and to pursue legislation aimed at protecting our democratic media by prohibiting further media consolidation

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2003, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this ____ day of _____, 2003.

President of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2003

City Clerk

(Seal)

From: Norman Horowitz
To: Horowitz, Norman [nohoco]
Date: 3/4/03 7 37PM
Subject: Fw AbsurdArchaicSilly, farewell

**SUNSHINE PERIOD
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JUN 16 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

While it's not exactly "they win and I lose", I have decided, for a variety of reasons, to "give it up" and discontinue my whining about the media. There are certainly many other voices that are not heard as well. We all encounter a Democratic or Republican administration that never saw a media merger or expansion that they didn't consider to be "efficient". Their lobbyists do what they do very effectively and the expectation that an Antitrust Division, or FCC, or Congress would be appalled by what's going on, just "ain't" gonna happen.

Somewhere along the line I did forget the old, yet operative description, that "freedom of the press" is only "free" to those who own it.

Thank you for your past patience and indulgence. I will try to write on other subjects in which I am knowledgeable, such as a book I'm planning entitled "How to Be a Successful Jewish Wife and Mother". Who could do it better than the son of a Jewish mother, and the ex-husband of a Jewish wife? Based on my, post divorce, 15 years of dating, another book will be "Secrets of Unsuccessful Dating for Divorced Men Over 55".

-Norman

Absurd, Archaic, and Silly

The Congress or the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has legislated a station ownership limit wherein no television company can own stations covering more than 35% of the United States. This is now a contentious issue that needs to be resolved by the Commission and approved by the Federal courts.

Should we, as Americans, necessarily believe what we've been told by Les Moonves, President of CBS, or Bob Wright, Chairman of NBC? Moonves was quoted in the February 18th edition of the Los Angeles Times saying, "We have always felt that the station cap was absurd. The age-old argument was that we had to protect the mom-and-pop station owners from the big media company. But they don't exist anymore. The small guys have already been pushed out." Bob Wright, in an interview with the Hollywood Reporter, said, "The rules governing TV station ownership are archaic and silly". He went on to say, "The [ownership] cap is this figment that was created almost 60 years ago. It translates today to a 6% share of national audience, and that's ridiculous." At a time of incipient war in Iraq, nuclear saber rattling from North Korea, and major problems in the economy, wouldn't it really make sense to have differing opinions emanating from "mom and pop" broadcasters throughout the United States?

If you believe that it is inherent for broadcasters to "serve in the public interest, convenience, and necessity" and that this is not an arcane concept, you could agree that altering the caps is not in the public interest. In 1941 the FCC created an ownership cap of 3 television stations. This has been modified periodically to increase the national cap. In 1996 Congress directed the FCC to increase the cap to 35%. In my view the caps were implemented to protect the country from having its television media dominated by major industrial companies whose prime interests were undoubtedly that of profitability and dominance. It would be good for America not to have the FCC expand the cap, but rather reduce it to encourage the return of "mom-and-pop" ownership.

I would ask Mr Wright if the rules governing television station ownership were silly and archaic. He may not agree with them, but they definitely don't fit the definition of silly and archaic. Similarly, I'd ask him if he believes that eliminating these regulations would be "on the face of it", good for America.

I would ask Mr Moonves if he felt that the station cap was absurd? He also may not agree with the rules, but they certainly aren't absurd. I'd ask him if he believes that eliminating these regulations would be "on the face of it", good for America. Mr Moonves in a disingenuous fashion ignores the 100% reach of the Viacom owned CBS, MTV, UPN, Nickelodeon, and BET television networks, as well as various other media properties that have access into America's homes.

Mr Wright, unfortunately, in a most disingenuous fashion characterizes the 35% ownership cap equal to, "a 6% share of national audience." NBC retained the opportunity of reaching 35% of the American households and might receive a 6% share of audience. He neglects to remind everyone that with the network line up, NBC is capable of reaching virtually 100% of US television homes (and that doesn't include MSNBC or CNBC).

On December 14th, 1990 before the FCC, Bob Wright observed, "Under the current Rules, the diversity in program production that the Commission sought in 1970 is on its deathbed in 1990... Repeal of the rules will allow the networks to provide financing to independent producers. It is in NBC's self-interest to do everything we can to promote a strong independent production community... The future of the over-the-air broadcast system and the domination of program production by a few huge conglomerates are issues that dwarf any Commission concern over the details of network supplier relationships".

At the same 1990 FCC hearing, the then CBS President, Jeff Sagansky said, "CBS is proud of its long tradition of encouraging and supporting independent producers-companies like MTM, Tandem, and Lorimar. With the repeal of the rules, we would be able to support new ventures and help revitalize the independent community. We want to help new talent set up their own businesses, but we can't because of these rules".

Were Mr Wright and Mr Sagansky lying to the FCC in 1990? Were they possibly being naive? Did they just make an enormous mistake in their testimonies? Or, were they just plain wrong in their prediction?

It's now 13 years later and the networks once again are out to convince the Commission, the Congress, and the Administration that what they want is both reasonable and "good for America". It is my belief that the statements of Messrs Wright and Moonves, do indeed qualify as absurd, archaic, and silly.

From: Kathy Hill
To: Michael Copps, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 3/4/03 11 20PM
Subject: Democracy over corporate efficiencies (PNW hearing comment)

SUNSHINE PERIOD
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JUN 16 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioners Michael J. Copps, Jonathan S. Adelstein and the FCC,

Thank you for holding hearings in Seattle about proposed changes in FCC rules governing media consolidation

As a lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest and a citizen who depends on the news media to provide investigative reporting on issues that affect my voting, I urge you to fashion rules that enhance democracy and not corporate efficiencies, that will oppose media consolidation and further limit concentration of media ownership. We cannot trust corporations to do what is best for our democracy. A diverse and independent media is needed to keep our country and economy strong.

I worked for Ma Bell through its 1984 breakup. Phone company efficiencies were not the primary concern in that case, nor should business efficiencies be a primary concern with the media.

I live in Spokane, a city where owners of the only local daily newspaper (and a TV/radio station) are in hot water over a parking garage business deal they made with the city that is affecting local taxes and the city's ability to fund services. Without the independent media outlets we have here and a few very brave independent reporters, my neighbors and I would have gotten little if any unbiased information about the deal. The daily newspaper already has bought the local business weekly. In Spokane, advertisers have been manipulated by media sales persons pushing exclusivity agreements. I go to foreign media sources to find out what the US is doing when I should be able to trust our national media to report with full disclosure.

And when it comes to entertainment value, the Muzak approach offered by media conglomerates undermines innovation and variety. Local college stations that played alternative music have shut down or can't expand their tiny range in Spokane. Thank goodness we have public radio, but government funding too frequently is under political attack.

I urge you and the other commissioners to protect media diversity, investigative reporting (not reporting that depends on handouts that compromise media integrity), and democracy (not laissez faire market economics). Government needs to actively watchdog the media, do not allow the fox to guard the hen house.

Thank you for requesting community comment.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hill

Spokane WA

MSN 8 with e-mail virus protection service 2 months FREE*

CC: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB

From: deborah baker
To: Mike Powell
Date: 3/5/03 3 29PM
Subject: LESS MEDIA CROSS OWNERSHIP, NOT MORE!

RECEIVED

JUN 16 2003

Dear Chairman Powell:

I hope you and the FCC do NOT encourage media cross ownership, which will only result in larger media conglomerates, which in turn deny public access to diverse media outlets, which is a prerequisite to democracy. It is important for smaller and more locally based companies to be heard in the public forum. Large business interests are already overrepresented in our government, while we are supposed to have a government by, for, and of the people, not by, for, and of global corporations. Please help keep, reinstate, or establish (depending on your view) democracy in this country. Isn't it a strange thing to be asking a government representative for?

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Sincerely,

Deborah Baker

MSN 8 helps eliminate e-mail viruses. Get 2 months FREE*
<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/virus>

From: Paul Fellows
To: Mike Powell
Date: 3/5/03 3:49PM
Subject: Please open up the Commission deliberations on media ownership rules

Dear Mr. Powell-

I'm writing to urge you to open up the currently "limited access" Federal Communications Commission deliberations on media ownership rules to a Nation wide debate, with meetings available in each region of the country, and a lengthy comment period available, so you can really hear from Americans about what they think about media consolidation

I'm already concerned about consolidation. The powerful media conglomerates have certainly made their mark. One must spend much valuable time looking for trustworthy information and news these days. The further consolidation of media, especially into companies mainly interested in entertaining America (not informing America) is a frightening prospect.

The proposed rule changes will further prohibit access to a wide array of information, which is necessary for maintaining the health of this republic. By allowing the distribution of information to be limited to only a few powerful companies, each dominating its own distribution technology and mainly interested in the money made in entertainment programming, you will be doing great damage to democracy.

I'm old enough to remember when the Reagan administration took away the Fairness in Broadcasting rules. One can track the demise of fair public debate, the ruin of the foundation piece of compromise and the polarization of America to that change.

I implore you to open up this issue to nation wide public debate beginning today! Call a news conference and let people know about this important national matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Fellows
4220 Dayton Avenue No
Seattle WA 98103
pfellows@cypressmail.net
206 632 2311

Senator Ernest Hollings
Senator Kay Hutchison
Representative Lamar Smith
Senator John Cornyn
FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps
FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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Date: Wed, Jun 4, 2003 7:52 PM
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FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

From: Marvinarmas@msn.com
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Wed, Jun 4, 2003 8:10 PM
Subject: Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

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U.S. Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marvin Armas
14304 Yucatan Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93314

cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Bill Thomas
Senator Ernest Hollings
FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
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From: guypohlman@yahoo.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Jun 4, 2003 8:15 PM
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Sincerely,

Guy pohlman
18153/4N. edgemontSt.
Los Angeles, California 90027

cc:

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